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Pirates Pull Away From Flagler In 95-68 Win

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Pirates Pull Away From Flagler In 95-68 Win





Posted: Jan 03, 2011

SAVANNAH, Ga. - The Armstrong Atlantic State University men's basketball team exploded for a big second half in claiming a 95-68 Peach Belt Conference victory over visiting Flagler on Monday evening at Alumni Arena.

The Pirates (7-3, 1-1 PBC) led by just one, 40-39, at the break after Flagler (7-3, 1-1 PBC) scored the last four points of the half. But after intermission, Armstrong opened up the half outscoring the Saints, 25-8, over the first seven and a half minutes to pull away for the 27-point victory.

"At halftime, I wasn't worried about our offense," Armstrong head men's basketball coach Jeremy Luther said. "We were achieving offensive consistency, where I felt they [Flagler] weren't. I told my team to step up defensively. When we give effort on every play, we're a pretty doggone good basketball team."

The Pirates shot 57.1 percent after intermission, hitting 20-of-35 shots from the floor, and also hit 5-of-10 three-pointers. Seven different Pirates hit at least one three-pointer on the night, and four players reached double figures, led by **Chris Vanlandingham**. Vanlandingham hit 8-of-10 shots from the floor en route to a game-high 19 points, while DeVon Jones added 13 points. Jesse Wheeler had 13 points, six rebounds, four blocked shots and three assists while junior Mychal Horn had a season-high 11 assists on the night.

"I challenged our point guards to come out and show me something," Luther said. "Mychal came out in the second half and made two great back-to-back plays against one of the best point guards in the league, D.J. Ferguson."

The Saints were led by Kenny Moore's 17 points, while John Pietkiewicz chipped in 13 points and Jamal McNeil added 12 points off the bench. The nation's leader in assists at 11.3 per game, Ferguson had eight points and five assists - only one in the second half.

Armstrong finished the game hitting 36-of-66 shots from the floor for 54.5 percent, while canning eight of 18 three-pointers (44.4 percent) and making 15-of-22 free throws for 68.2 percent. Flagler hit 26-of-58 of shots from the floor for 44.8 percent

- including shooting just 35-5 percent in the second half.

The Pirates return to action on Saturday, January 8, visiting USC Aiken at 7:30 p.m. for a Peach Belt Conference matchup with the Pacers.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY IS ONE OF THE PREMIER NCAA DIVISION II COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN THE NATION, FEATURING 13 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, 97 PEACH BELT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, 148 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS APPEARANCES AND 302 ALL-AMERICANS.

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